



TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
ANN M. MARTINO, PH.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 31, 1997

The Honorable Jim Lind, Chair
Committee on State Government
Iowa Senate
Capitol Building

Dear Senator Lind:

Pursuant to the provisions of section 272C.4(2) of the 1996 Code of Iowa, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners (Board) hereby submits its annual report for calendar year 1996.

I. 500 Investigative Files Opened During CY 1996

The investigations initiated by the Board were based upon complaints and reports received from a variety of sources including patients, health care practitioners, health facilities, insurance providers, law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, as well as the general public. Additionally, some of the investigations were opened on the Board's motion. The Board closed a total of 404 investigative files during calendar year 1996. The Board had 885 investigative files open at the end of CY 1996.

II. Nine Peer Review Committees Registered in CY 1996

The Board utilizes registered peer review committees to evaluate investigative reports, medical records and other pertinent material. Reports and recommendations made by the peer review committees are considered by the Board when determining if a disciplinary action should be initiated against a licensee.

The Board's peer review committees are:

SPECIALTY	NOS. OF MEMBERS
Surgery	7
Anesthesiology	5
OB/GYN	2
Internal Medicine	2
Emergency Medicine	2
Family Practice	14
Psychiatry	2
Oncology	1
Pediatrics	2

No formal disciplinary actions were initiated by the Board during calendar year 1996 based solely upon the recommendation of peer review committees.

III. 41 Formal Disciplinary Actions Initiated in CY 1996

The formal disciplinary actions commenced before the Board or courts during calendar year 1996 covered a wide range of potential violations of state law and Board administrative rules. The majority of these actions concerned quality of care, physician impairments, and unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or osteopathy. At the end of CY 1996, 31 of the disciplinary actions initiated during CY 1996 were still pending.

IV. 160 Sanctions Issued in CY 1996

The formal and informal sanctions issued by the Board in calendar year 1996 include:

TYPE OF SANCTION	NUMBER TAKEN
License revocations	1
License suspensions	8
License surrenders	9
License probations	13
Civil penalties	7
License practice restrictions	6
Public reprimands	3
Letters of warning and	112
Letter of education	

*Denotes Informal sanction

The Board also dismissed disciplinary charges against three physicians. In addition, the Board filed one injunction against the unlicensed practice of medicine.

V. Board Actions On Appeal or Under Judicial Review in CY 1996

At the end of calendar year 1996, four petitions for judicial review of Board disciplinary actions awaited action -- all in Iowa District Courts. Early in CY 1996 the Polk County District Court issued a decision affirming the Board's long-standing policy to make disciplinary charges public.

At the close of CY 1996, four Board disciplinary actions remained on appeal before the Iowa Supreme Court.

VII. 959 Licenses Issued in CY 1996

The Board approved the issuance of licenses to 959 applicants. Included were:

- 690 permanent licenses
- 15 temporary licenses
- 4 special licenses
- 248 resident physician licenses
- 2 non-physician acupuncturists

The Board received 829 applications for permanent, temporary and special licenses in calendar year 1996. This figure is about 3 percent below the 851 applications received by the Board in calendar year 1995. The Board took action on 714, or about 86%, of the 829 applications received in CY 1996; the remaining applications were carried-over for review or investigation in calendar year 1997.

In addition, the Board also took the following formal actions relating to licensure during calendar year 1996:

- o Five applications for licensure were denied.
- o One application for reinstatement of licensure was denied.

VIII. 5065 Licenses Renewed in CY 1996

During calendar year 1996, 5065 permanent licenses were renewed by the Board. This number represents about half of the total roster of licensees. The expired permanent licenses of 35 physicians were reinstated upon the approval of the Board. Additionally, audits of the continuing education certifications submitted by 478 physicians seeking license renewal were conducted. The Board's office also prepared responses to over 35,000 requests for verification of Iowa licensure.

IX. Administrative Rules Adopted in CY 1996

The Board promulgated and adopted amendments to its licensure and disciplinary rules. The amendments, copies of which are attached, made several technical corrections in the administrative code. The Board also established an Impaired Physician Review Committee in accordance with Iowa Code 272C.3(1)"k" to evaluate, assist, and monitor physicians who self-report impairments. Additionally, the Board adopted a new chapter which establishes procedures for the Board to suspend, revoke, or deny issuance or renewal of a license for individuals who are non-compliant with child support payments.

X. 160 Physicians Examined by the Board in CY 1996

During calendar year 1996, the Board administered the nationally accepted United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) and Special Licensing Examination (SPEX) to 160 physicians.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann M. Martino, PhD
Executive Director
Iowa Board of Medical Examiners

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